

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in the present application. The specification has been amended. No new matter was introduced as a result of the amendments. Entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

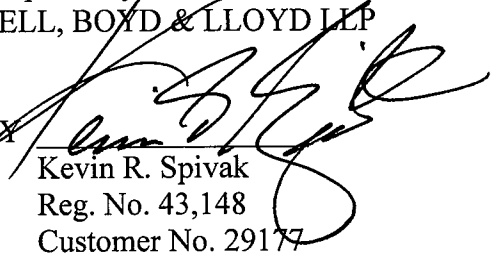
Claims 15, 19-20 and 24-28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Seyrat (FR 2813743) in view of Seyrat (ISO). The rejection is respectfully traversed since the FR 2813743 reference is not appropriate prior art. The '743 reference has a publication date of March 8, 2002 (as indicated by the Examiner on PTO-892 and on the cover of the published document), which is after the priority date of the instant application, namely September 27, 2001. The application date of September 6, 2000 is the filing date in France (foreign country), and therefore ineffective for as a priority date over the instant application. Hence, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Seyrat in view of ISO further in view of Girardot or Sperberg-McQueen. The rejections are traversed for the same reasons presented above.

Entry of this amendment after final is appropriate since it removes objections to the specification and claims, and places this application in condition for allowance. In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing, referencing Attorney Docket No. 112740-1052.

Respectfully submitted,
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